



## SWARC NEWS-02/24

### Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Thank you to all who attended our meeting this month. It was good to see you there, along with quite a few new faces. Just as a reminder, don't forget the NC QSO party at the end of the month, February 25, 2024. More information can be found at "[ncqsoparty.org](https://ncqsoparty.org)". Also, we need volunteers for RARSfest this year. If you are available, please help with manning our club & sales tables. RARSfest is April 6, 2024. More information can be found on their site "[www.rarsfest.org](https://www.rarsfest.org)".

Please remember our fellow members who are dealing with various medical situations. I am sure they will be listed later in the newsletter, but please reach out to these members. Even just a phone call can brighten their day and give them the encouragement through their recovery.

Thanks again,  
Rodney  
KO4ZFO

**News Flash:** All future meetings of the club will be in Bldg 1, until further notice, on the first Wednesday of each month. Even though this meeting reverted back to Bldg 2, it is our current plan to meet in Bldg 1 until the Legion makes up their mind about scheduling.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, and Steve, KA0GMY.



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Steve, KA0GMY, continues to have health issues, so remember him, Steve Jr., and Miss Gloria as well (particularly).

Gary Plante, KO4LQX, reports that his lymphedema is acting up and the glands in his throat are swollen. He will probably have a scan after his next immunology treatment on the 20<sup>th</sup> if I understood his message correctly. He did report that he has checked in to some afternoon nets (presumably the noon net) recently so he still is in the hobby! He really needs our prayer support for his continued health battles (report from Richard Hall).

Kenny (KJ4CVK), has ongoing health issues, so keep him in your thoughts. Some folks said they heard him on the radio recently, but consider reaching out to him.

## Notes from WB4SMS (Steve)

Hello SWARC Members.

Just a friendly reminder that elections for the club are approaching quickly. If you are interested in helping the club with your leadership skills in one of a variety of positions, please let me know. Thank you for supporting your amateur radio club.



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### SWARC 7 February 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was well attended and there was enough food and desserts. This was certainly one of the best turnouts of members and guests in quite some time.

Those in physical attendance were:

Richard Hall (K7RLH), Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Linda Crawford (KI4LO), Dave Krum (NW3U) and Penny, Christy Fernandini (KJ4AEO), Rich Gehle (N4DPQ) and wife Jane, Dave Yow (K4MSE), Steve Mowels (KA0GMY), John Poplawski (WB4UFO), Matt Price (KE4NIP), and guests Will Rowland (N4GTI), Wallace Adkins (KO4SKA), David Gilmore (KO4MAU), Tom Stacy (KO4NSE) and Mark Lerch (KQ4OKC) a brand-new ham, receiving his license on the 6<sup>th</sup> after testing on Saturday, the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Another guest (unlicensed) was Bob Hansel. Mark turned in a membership application and Tom Stacy asked about joining after the meeting, so he may be a member now or very soon.

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm , with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Al Crawford (WA4TCJ) and introductions were made around the room—we had five guests as noted. Officer and chair reports are included in the body of these minutes or as newsletter items from our President and Vice President.



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### **Old/Unfinished Business**

None

### **New Business**

Richard (K7RLH) moved that we purchase a club selling table at RARSfest, seconded by Dave (NW3U) and passed.

Steve (KA0GMY) moved that we consider charging a \$5 donation at meals to cover incidental costs for ice, drinks, paper goods, etc. It was seconded and passed.

Steve (KA0GMY) also moved that we present Danny Hampton (K4ITL) with a plaque acknowledging his donation of the Kenwood TS-2000 HF radio transceiver in our radio room. The motion was seconded and passed.

### **Program/Presentation**

This meeting was our annual auction, but sadly there was very little to purchase and I can't be certain that anything was sold. It was very disappointing that so little was offered and there was certainly very little action. Perhaps we should reconsider this type of event and schedule a program in February in the future, obviously something to be considered by the Board and members.



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### Public Service

Dave Krum (NW3U) reminded members that the public service season is now open with the first event being the Odyssey of the Mind competition, followed by Walk MS and bicycling events.

*Check the [HPSNC.org](http://HPSNC.org) web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS and SWARC websites.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini's report detailed \$85.00 cash addition for two member dues and \$40.00 from the 50-50 raffle drawing, with deductions of \$8.60 for a Google recurring charge and bank fee of \$6.00. Income was \$245.00 from tee shirt sales, dues and equipment sale at JARSfest. Balance of \$2,069.98 with no obligated funds or invoices outstanding.

The meeting was officially adjourned around 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Hall K7RLH  
Secretary and Newsletter Editor



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### MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is [christyfernandini@outlook.com](mailto:christyfernandini@outlook.com). Make checks payable to South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

### NET REPORT

SWARC Group – January 2024

The monthly total of check-ins was 252—a significant drop from last month! Note that **not** all net controls record their counts so numbers could actually be higher than recorded.

- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
- KN4OEY will call Tuesday evenings
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
- KO4ZFO or a board member will call Thursday evenings
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.



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Please contact Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO) or Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), if you are interested in calling one or more nets.

### SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.

**LINKS** (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

***PRN***

***A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network***

[www.ncprn.net](http://www.ncprn.net)

***GigaParts***

[www.gigaparts.com](http://www.gigaparts.com)

***QRZ***

[www.qrz.com](http://www.qrz.com)

***Ham Radio Outlet HRO***

[www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)

***Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS***

[www.rars.org](http://www.rars.org)

***Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS***

[www.jars.net](http://www.jars.net)



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*South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC*

[www.southwakearc.com](http://www.southwakearc.com)

*Carolina 440 Network*

[www.carolina440.net](http://www.carolina440.net)

*North Carolina Packet*

[www.ncpacket.com](http://www.ncpacket.com)

*TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)*

[www.tarpn.net](http://www.tarpn.net)

*Useful Ham Info*

[www.torborg.com/a](http://www.torborg.com/a)

*Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts*

[www.fivecountyhre.org](http://www.fivecountyhre.org)

### **On the Air**

Sponsored by [icom](http://icom.com)

The Joys of Being a General

The January/February 2024 issue of *On the Air* featured a story from Brian McSpadden Gardener, KE8JVX, about "The First-Year Experiences of a General-Class Ham," in which Brian detailed how he got his feet wet as a General, and how he put together his first station for HF. Brian joins this episode of the podcast to tell us a little more about his first year as a General, as well as what he's done since then.



### **ARRL Audio News**

Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.



The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple



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Podcasts -- [On the Air](#) | [ARRL Audio News](#).

### Announcements

**This year, George Washington's birthday will be celebrated by three amateur radio clubs.** From 1500Z to 2100Z on February 17, the [Washington Area Amateur Radio Club](#), W0ARC, will be active on 7.071, 7.200, 14.071, 14.275, 21.074, 21.310, 28.071, and 28.350 MHz, as well 10, 15, 20, and 40 MHz phone. A commemorative QSL card will be available for those who send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mark Lukins, AB0DX, at 802 N Second Ave in Washington, Iowa (zip code 52353). On February 18 - 19, from 1500Z to 2000Z, the [Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club](#) (MVARC) will operate from George Washington's Mount Vernon estate on 7.042, 7.242, 14.042, and 14.242 MHz. For more information, email [social@mvarc.org](mailto:social@mvarc.org). The [Columbia Basin DX Club](#), WS7G, will celebrate Washington's birthday on February 21 - 24 from 0001Z to 2359Z. WS7G will operate on 14.322, 14.255, 7.222, and 7.260 MHz. For a commemorative certificate and a QSL card, contact Brian Nielson, W7BJN, at 11650 Road 1 SE in Monitor, Washington (zip code 98836).

### In Brief...

**As part of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program, students at Lilburn Elementary School in Lilburn, Georgia, were able to contact the International Space Station (ISS) on February 7 and talk to astronaut Jasmin Moghbeli, KI5WSL.** The contact took place with help from Daryl Young, K4RGK, ARISS representative and member of the North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL). Students were able to ask 15 questions, ranging from "What is the grossest thing about living in space?" to "Have you read the *Dog Man* books?"



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Astronaut Moghbeli said that collecting and loading the trash into a special waste vehicle is the grossest job on the ISS. As for the *Dog Man* books, she has not read them -- yet -- but would be interested in trying them. She also talked about growing tomatoes in space, and how her most important job on the ISS is brushing her teeth every morning. You can view [a recording of the contact on YouTube](#).

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) program, the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](#), and AMSAT.

**The [SouthWest Ohio DX Association](#) (SWODXA), in conjunction with Icom® America, Inc., has announced a DX Mentor Recognition Program to recognize and reward amateur radio operators who have helped others achieve [DXCC](#).** An application form is now available for those who wish to nominate their DX mentor. Amateurs who have received mentoring from a nominee must be under 30 years of age during the calendar year of the award; targeting this age group is meant to keep such amateurs engaged in the hobby after they achieve DXCC. The judging committee will comprise SWODXA representatives and a representative from both the Northern California DX Foundation (NCDXF) and the International DX Association (INDEXA). The awards will be presented at the DX Dinner, held annually in conjunction with [Dayton Hamvention®](#). More information and the entry form can be found at [www.swodxa.org/DX-Mentor-Program](http://www.swodxa.org/DX-Mentor-Program) or by emailing [thedxmentor@gmail.com](mailto:thedxmentor@gmail.com).

## The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP006:



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Over the recent reporting week (February 1 - 7) ten new sunspot groups emerged: five on February 1, one on February 2, another on February 3, two on February 5, and one more on February 7.



This solar disk image was taken on February 8, 2024. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

Sunspot numbers and solar flux rose, and geomagnetic numbers were quieter.

The average daily sunspot number increased from 71.8 to 142.3, and the average daily solar flux rose from 145.4 to 165.5.

Geomagnetic conditions were quieter. The average daily planetary A index decreased from 6.9 to 5.1, and the average middle latitude numbers decreased from 5.6 to 4.4.

The following data is sourced from the US Air Force and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA):

Predicted solar flux is 180, 175, 170, 172, and 178 on February 8 - 12; 180, 182, 165, and 170 on February 13 - 16; 160 on February 17 - 21; 165 and 160 on February



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22 - 23; 150 on February 24 - 28; 155, 160, and 165 on February 29 through March 2, and 170 on March 3 - 5.

Predicted planetary A index is 5, 15, 12, and 8 on February 8 - 11; 5 on February 12 - 25; 8 and 7 on February 26 - 27, and 5 on February 28 through March 2.

Visit the following websites for recent solar news:

IFL Science: <https://bit.ly/3uqpnmV>;

The Independent Digital News and Media Limited United Kingdom: <https://bit.ly/3SMk8Y1>

Space.com: <https://bit.ly/3SPqwxD>

News Nine India: <https://bit.ly/4bw6j7y>

The Mint India: <https://bit.ly/49Kyoq7>

[earth.com: https://bit.ly/3SzUzrQ](https://bit.ly/3SzUzrQ)

Sunspot numbers for February 1 through 7, 2024, were 113, 131, 123, 138, 152, 175, and 164, with a mean of 142.3. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 136.9, 142.6, 156.4, 170.4, 173.4, 190.3, and 188.4, with a mean of 165.5. Estimated planetary A indices were 5, 3, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 4, with a mean of 5.1. Middle latitude A index was 4, 3, 2, 5, 6, 8, and 3, with a mean of 4.4.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to [k7ra@arrrl.net](mailto:k7ra@arrrl.net).

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).



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### Just Ahead in Radiosport

- February 12 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW, phone)
- February 12 - 16 -- [ARRL School Club Roundup](#) (CW, phone)
- February 14 -- PODXS 070 Club Valentine Sprint (digital)
- February 14 -- NAQCC CW Sprint (CW)
- February 14 -- DARC FT4 Contest (FT4)
- February 14 -- RSGB 80m Club Championship, Data (digital)
- February 15 - 16 -- Walk for the Bacon QRP Contest (CW)
- February 15 -- NTC QSO Party (CW)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.

### Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- February 24 | [Central Dakota Amateur Radio Club](#), hosting the ARRL North Dakota State Convention, Bismarck, North Dakota
- February 24 | [HAM-CON](#), hosting the ARRL Vermont State Convention, Colchester, Vermont
- March 1 - 2 | [Greater Houston HamFest](#), hosting the ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Rosenberg, Texas
- March 8 - 9 | [Acadiana DX Association Hamfest &](#)



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[Swapmeet](#), hosting the ARRL Louisiana State Convention, Rayne, Louisiana

- March 16 | [49th Annual Stuart Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Southern Florida Section Convention, Stuart, Florida
- March 16 | [St. Patrick's Day Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL West Texas Section Convention, Midland, Texas
- April 6 | [Raleigh Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Raleigh, North Carolina
- April 12 - 13 | [Green Country Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Oklahoma State Convention, Claremore, Oklahoma
- April 20 | [Delmarva Amateur Radio and Electronics Expo](#), hosting the ARRL Delaware State Convention, Georgetown, Delaware

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.

### Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to [news@arrl.org](mailto:news@arrl.org). -- John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News [Editor](#)



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- Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.
- [NCJ -- National Contest Journal](#). Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA Sprint, and QSO parties.





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- [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members...

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- Find ARRL on [Facebook](#)! Follow us on [Threads](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#)

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